

# TOPICS OF INTEREST TO EVERY WOMAN

Edited by JULIA CHANDLER MANZ.

## EXPLANATION OF PROBLEM IS FOUND IN LOSS OF SENTIMENT

By DOROTHY DIX.

I've had a curious experience lately. One day I chanced to hear a discussion among three college girls, who talked of life with a big L. They all expected to elevate the world and were very serious in their views of the uplift they would give, but as nearly as I could make out from the consensus of opinions expressed, the two things that they regarded as the greatest calamity that could befall a woman were, first, to get married, and, secondly, to be tied down to a home.

The next day I met a beautiful and wealthy young woman, who was a religious belle in society, who calmly told me that she had broken her engagement to the young man to whom she was engaged to be married. She gave as a reason for doing this that she had been to see one of her girl friends, who had been married a couple of years, and who looked faded and weary, and whom she found wrestling with a crying baby, no servant, and a husband who was cross because there was no dinner. "Of course, I'm awfully fond of Jack," the girl went on, "but I took one look at Lulu and one at myself, and I came home and wrote Jack that matrimony was too strenuous for me."

The third day I heard somebody ask a working girl if she ever intended to marry, to which she replied, with emphasis, "Never. Catch me giving my pocketbook and latch key for any man that lives."

These three groups of women may not represent their sex as a whole, but they do undoubtedly represent the three types of women of to-day—the intellectual, the gay and frivolous, and the working woman, and the thing that struck me so forcibly was that all of them displayed an absolute lack of sentiment.

**Various Reasons.** The college bred woman did not want to marry because it would interfere with her career. The society girl did not want to marry because she would lose her beauty and have to worry about servants. The business woman did not want to marry because she would have to give up her liberty and her salary.

All three traveled by different roads, but they reached the same goal. To them matrimony was a life sentence, and home a prison, and it was plain that they never came into their lives, it would be in the nature of a surprise party. It was nothing that they counted on. They were not on the lookout for the fairy prince. They were dodging him.

Two stories that show which way a woman's mind moves are the facts that women have ceased to swoon, and almost cease to weep. The woman of the past was so sentimental that she could be touched to tears by anything. She wept for joy, and she wept for sorrow, just as she swooned when anything unexpected happened.

This was esteemed interesting, but a woman now who couldn't control herself would be considered the victim of hysteria and would be hustled to the nearest specialist to get herself treated, because she would know that she was an object of derision to other women.

**No Successors.** The ladies who died of broken hearts because they were fitted by a faithless suitor, and who spent forty or fifty years weeping over a packet of yellowed letters, seem also to have left no successors. A woman who had no more backbone and pride than to pine away for a faithless lover does not now appeal to other women as a romantic figure. On the contrary, they have such a contempt for her that it stings her into breaking herself up, and keeping quiet if she does not adopt the modern tactics of the forsaken, and use for damage to her heart, and bad and vulgar as the breach of promise suit is, it is better than for a woman to grieve over a man who didn't want her.

Even the deserted wife, who surely has cause, if any one has, to bemoan her fate, is beginning to take a less sentimental and more practical view of her situation. It has been the traditional attitude for a woman whose husband forsakes her to brood over her fate and love him still and wait patiently for his return.

But women are beginning to ask themselves why they should grieve for the loss of a worthless man or weep over being deprived of a husband who was willing to humiliate them? And the result has been eminently satisfactory.

**Cause of Much Divorce.** To the fact that women regard the marriage tie with less sentiment is also attributed much of the increase in divorce. There used to be a sentiment about the matrimonial fetter that gilded it and made women endure any kind of treatment rather than break it. There was even a halo about a husband that made it right for him to be cruel and tyrannical, and gave him the right to do as he pleased. She could not even imagine a life in which she would have to stand alone, and so she endured an unhappy married life as being the better of two evils.

That was the sentimental point of view. The practical one is that man is human, and marriage a contract, and that if her marriage rope calls unendurably she has a right to free herself from it. Just as many women in the past had grievances

## HOW TO TAKE CARE OF BLACK CLOTHES

They Need as Much Attention as Colors.

The possession of a black garment is to some a source of trouble, but it does not require the same amount of cleaning that clothes of different shades would call for. It is a mistake to think that a black dress, coat, or skirt does not need the same attention as any other, for though the dust and soil does not appear to the eye it is lodged there just the same, and should be eradicated as regularly as though the dust showed. A good cleanser can be made by boiling weak coffee until the odor is all gone and then using it on the garment as though it was being given its original sponging.

All spots should be taken out before this operation with a reliable cleanser, and as to the number of spots a dark cloth will acquire you will be surprised upon making a close inspection. They will all pop out to your gaze if you look over the article of apparel after it has been given a good brushing in preparing for the sponging operation, which is intended to supply a new health and vigor that will give the garment an appearance of brand-newness.

**Should Be Pulled Into Shape.**

After any article is thus cleaned it should be pulled into shape so that the pressing will be a task altogether easy of accomplishment. The shaping process can be attended to several times during the time that it takes to dry. All hems should be pressed so that the moisture will evaporate easier. The seams should be given a rebate basting before dampened, so that the crinkling thereabout will be of little or no consideration. This work ought not to be so very tedious with the garments of later date that show so few gores.

The same attention can be given to hubby's black clothes and the renovating will actually repay one in the length of time that this renovating will allow the suit to be worn, whereas if the attention were not given to it, its life would be short duration and where good dressing is the first essential.

One can thank the lucky stars that plain skirts are no longer worn to any extent, for they would undoubtedly present an inexplicable problem.

## TEMPERAMENT IS MERELY TEMPER

There is a great deal excused to the woman with talent, and a great deal of latitude allowed her under the plea of artistic temperament, which, by the way, is a phrase on the end of every one's tongue nowadays. But Mrs. Jeanne Jonell, the singer, declares that half the so-called temperamental is merely temper, and has written a clever little decalogue for girls who are striving for success upon the stage which she calls the commandments of temperament.

They are as follows:

**Self-control a Great Help.**

1. Be sure you have "temperament" before you begin to brag about it. Your family may call it only temper.

2. If your "temperament" is due to nerves, poor circulation, or self-hypnotism, don't give up hope. You can be cured.

3. Don't think you have to roar to express your individuality; you may have none to express.

4. Don't indulge in too many temperamental explosions to clear the air. People can't live where the air is too rarefied.

5. Learn to be sensitive to other people's feelings before you give way to your own.

6. Don't be temperamental for effect. Every one can see through it after the first time.

7. Cultivate your imagination, but learn to control it.

8. Never be "temperamental" at breakfast.

9. Don't indulge in self-pity.

10. Learn to curb Temperament.

11. Learn to control your artistic temperament, which may be self-control run wild.

"Temperament," says Mrs. Jonell, "is the result of mixing what you are with what you would like to be or imagine yourself to be. The artistic temperament is liable to break loose among the most 'average' men and women, but its chief prey is the prima donna."

Fancy silk neck bows, which may be worn as an accompaniment to the side curl or almost any other kind of hair neckwear, have made their appearance. Their colors include cerise, American Beauty, royal blue, black, purple, pink, blue, emerald, and all have hanging ends, which are finished with black and white silk bows.

## INTERESTING THINGS ABOUT QUEEN MARY'S WARDROBE

It is impossible to imagine Queen Mary of England setting the styles for the feminine world. King Edward's personal tastes in dress were watched by the tailors of at least two continents, and his personal likes and dislikes in the matter of colors and cuts were reflected in all the capitals of Europe. To a slightly less degree King George affects the modes of the male half of civilization. But not even her closest friends would accuse Queen Mary of being fashionable. In fact, her tastes in matters of dress are those of a thrifty housewife, with little to spare on personal adornment.

To copy the modes of a King is more or less of a compliment to his good taste; to follow too slavishly the modes of a Queen is the worst of bad form. In the Queen's wardrobe it is an unwritten law that the dresses of the ladies must not too closely resemble those of her majesty, and the same rule applies to those who have been in touch socially with the Queen. In other words common consent accords Queen Mary that pleasure, dear to every woman's heart, of exclusiveness in dress.

**Sets Show Pace.**

It would not be hard, even for a woman of limited income, to follow the pace set by Queen Mary in her expensive wardrobe. It will be a surprise to many to learn that some of the more simple dresses in her majesty's wardrobe cost not more than the equivalent of \$20. In fact, she has a number of plain walking and yachting costumes that cost exactly \$24 to \$30. That is not to say that they are made of cheap material; on the contrary, the Queen always insists that no matter how low-priced the dress supplied to her, it must contain no imitation material whatever. Everything must be the best of its kind.

Usually Queen Mary orders several gowns at the same time in order that she may not waste too many of her valuable hours. Word is sent to the establishment she intends to patronize, telling the manager that the Queen will call at such and such a time on such and such a day. A general description of the kind of gown she would like to purchase accompanies the notification. The manager must provide a gown in which to receive her majesty, and a number of gowns she as she thinks will meet with her favor are paraded before her on a living model.

Queen Mary has decided tastes of her own in matters of dress, and she seldom orders an exact copy of any of the models shown to her. There is always some modification required, and she gives the most minute directions, which are taken down and submitted in writing for her approval so that there will be no mistake.

In some cases dressmakers are commanded to call at Buckingham Palace with a selection of model gowns, but as a rule Queen Mary prefers to call at the Queen's wardrobe, and she gives the most minute directions, which are taken down and submitted in writing for her approval so that there will be no mistake.

**Trimmings Are Used Many Times.**

Frequently the dresses made for Queen Mary are trimmed with priceless lace and embroideries supplied from the collection at Buckingham Palace. In such cases, after the gowns have served their purpose, the trimmings are removed to be used again. In no case are these trimmings sold with the dresses.

There are some women in the world who refuse to wear the same dress twice. Queen Mary is not one of them. She has been known to wear the same dress as many as twenty-five times. On an average, dresses remain in the royal wardrobe about six months, and during that time they are worn probably eight or ten times each, although the frequency of their use varies a great deal according to the nature of their material and style, and thus a walking dress would be worn more often than an evening gown.

Although the Duchess of Devonshire holds the proud title of mistress of the robes, it is a mistake to suppose that she has anything to do with the dressing of the Queen. Her title is largely an honor, any one. So also largely are those of the ladies of the bedchamber, although they are constantly in attendance in succession upon her majesty. The clothes of the Queen are in charge of a dressing maid and two assistants, called dressers, and are kept in a great apartment adjoining the Queen's bedchamber, known as the robe room. The walls are lined with enormous wardrobes, some containing the state robes and others her majesty's ordinary gowns and dresses.

**Costumes Are Numbered.**

One of the ladies of the bedchamber sends a card in the evening to the dressing maid, giving particulars of the dress she will be worn by the Queen on the following day. After each dress is entered the hour at which it must be ready and laid out in the dressing room. The system is simplified by the numbering of every costume in her majesty's extensive wardrobe, and any reference to them is made by number.

Twice a year Queen Mary personally goes over her wardrobe and throws out the dresses she no longer wishes to retain. Those discarded are divided into two ways: a small number are given to the dressing mistress and her assistants,

but the great majority are sold to a dress agency.

The selling of the Queen's old dresses is conducted by the dressing mistress, who is given the widest discretion in the matter. There is one condition, however, that is always insisted upon. Under no circumstances are the dresses of the Queen to be resold in England by the agency buying them. A story is told of the great annoyance of Queen Alexandra when she attended a fashionable wedding in St. Margaret's Church and ran against a certain well-known society woman dressed in one of the royal cast-offs. When her majesty travels, a complete list of the dresses and effects to be taken is given to the dressing maid, and they are packed in long specially constructed robe trunks, which are labeled "Right side up." It is hardly necessary to say that in this case, at least, instructions are followed by the baggage men.

## NOVEL PATTERN FOR LITTLE GIRL'S FROCK



There is no daintier novelty than this little frock. The seamless shoulder is used and the closing is placed in the center of the back, while the front has an inserted box plait. The pretty collar is short in front, but very deep in the back. The skirt is plaited with a panel in the center of the front.

A dress like this can be made of check, plaid or striped materials or of a plain color with contrasting collar and cuffs. The pattern, 523, is cut in sizes 4 to 12 years. Medium size requires 2½ yards of 44-inch material.

The above pattern can be obtained by sending 10 cents to the office of this paper.

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## THE MENU FOR TO-MORROW FILLED WITH GOOD RECIPES

**BREAKFAST.**  
Oatmeal with Baked Apples.  
Country Sausage, Buckwheat Cakes.  
Coffee.

**LUNCHEON.**  
Corn Chowder.  
Bread and Butter, Pear Salad.  
Devil's Food, Cocoa.

**DINNER.**  
Cream of Potato Soup.  
Broiled Steak, Horseradish Sauce.  
Baked Rice.  
Celery Salad, Cheese Wafers.  
Baked Indian Pudding, Caramel Sauce.  
Coffee.

Devil's Food (new)—Butter, one heaping teaspoon; sugar, one cup; beat to a good cream; then add one teaspoon of vanilla and the yolks of two eggs. Cut one-fourth bar of chocolate and add one-half cup of cold water, let come to a boil and pour over the above. Beat. Sift one and one-half cups of flour (sifted) with one teaspoon baking powder and stir into the cake mixture. Lastly add one-half teaspoon baking soda (sifted) in one-half cup boiling water and beat thoroughly. The secret in making this cake is to have the batter thin. It will be light and tender, more like a sponge cake. Use the whites for boiled icing. (Giddings.)

Appendix is one of the best caramel cake recipes I have ever used: Caramel Cake—Beat one-half cup butter to a cream, add gradually one and one-half cups sugar, the yolks of two eggs and one cup water; add two cups flour and beat for five minutes; then add three teaspoons caramel syrup, one teaspoon vanilla and another half cup flour. Beat again thoroughly, then stir in carefully two teaspoons baking powder and the well beaten whites of two eggs. Bake in three layers in a moderate oven.

Caramel Filling—Boil one cupful sugar in one-half cup hot water until waxy, add two teaspoonsful caramel, remove from the stove; when lukewarm beat until just thick enough to spread slowly. This frosting will remain soft and creamy.

Baked Rice—Wash one cupful rice and put into a baking dish with a teaspoonful salt, three cupful milk, and butter, size of a walnut. Bake in a good oven about thirty minutes.

Always keep a large piece of folded unbleached muslin on the ironing board to try the hot iron. If the muslin scorches it is easier to supply a new piece than remove the whole cover. Also, when they have been ironed, roll all scarves, handkerchiefs and all articles which you do not want creased on a quick made for this purpose. Saw off a broomstick any desired length and cover it with muslin. The scarves will be smooth and free from creases and can be laid away in a drawer without taking up extra room.

To polish aluminum make a mixture of borax, ammonia, and water. Apply with a soft cloth.

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## SOME IMPROVED KITCHEN DEVICES

Another useful device is the individual egg poacher, which insures a round, neatly poached egg. This is inexpensive and is to be had in various styles. These poachers are economical because all of the egg is saved and not allowed to scatter throughout the pot.

Food choppers cost a little more than a knife or chopping board, but they do infinitely better work and do it twice as quickly as the hand-chopping method. They are fastened on the edge of the kitchen table and are manipulated by a crank.

Chopping in this way gives a nearly uniform size to the chopped substance, which not only adds to the gustatory value of the dish but also to the pleasure of the eye.

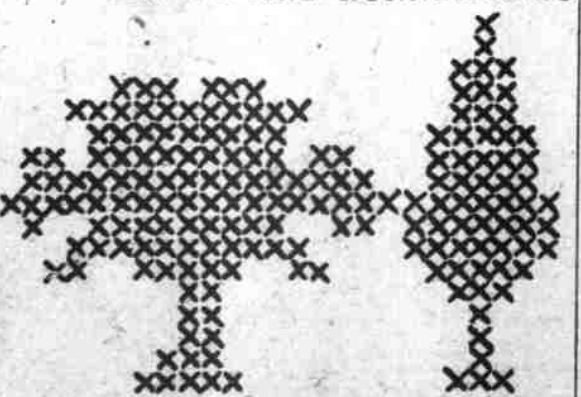
**Cheese Fruits and Nuts.**

Not only meat, but fruits and nuts for jams and marmalades, and even vegetables, can be chopped with these machines. This is the sort of device that actually saves time and money, because bits of vegetables, and especially pieces of meat, unusable in any other way, become thereby valuable additions to the table. The nut crackers and cherty stoner likewise belong to this class.

The French have again applied their military and mechanical genius to the making of a pastry contrivance for labor saving, pastry moldings, whipped cream garnishing, potato decorations, etc. This is the metal syringe with pointed ends and metal plunger. The more or less uncertain hand pressure required by the pastry bag is eliminated by this device. As the plunger acts evenly and with as much pressure as a piston rod.

A box with a dozen different points of varying designs to be affixed to the syringe is part of the equipment.

## CROSS-STITCH DESIGN FOR TOWELS AND RUNNER ENDS



Cross-stitch is the most popular work at present. It is so easy to do, and the quaint designs are very effective. Two or three hand-towels decorated with a tiny tree or basket of flowers on either side, and the initials in the center, will make a very acceptable gift. The stitches which run in one direction should be worked first, and then cross-stitch in the opposite direction, always working from left to right. Mercerized cotton No. 16 should be used.

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